

## WEEK SEVEN INTRODUCTION

Week 7 leads us through the end of Exodus and the establishment of the tabernacle, where God dwells among His people to Leviticus where the question, “How will the holy God dwell with His sinful people?” comes to the forefront. The undeniable reality is that God’s presence among His people necessarily means a *worshiping* people. To live with God means to worship God. Worship then shapes the people of Israel and must shape us today.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*

– Exodus 40:34

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This week’s reading begins with Exodus 29. It’s easy to skim by these instructions for consecrating the priests, but important principles appear here. Aaron’s priesthood simultaneously points to the superior priesthood of Jesus (Heb. 7:27-28) and to the separating effects of sin (Is. 59:2). Three times, before each sacrifice, Aaron and his sons are to “lay their hands on...” the sacrifice (vv. 10, 15, 19). Douglas Stuart notes that, laying hands on the sacrifice is a “symbolic means of transferring their guilt to the body of the animal.” Herein is the “basic principle of sacrifice: something must die in my place if I am to live.” For Aaron to *do* his priestly work he had to *be* cleansed from sin. What are some ways you try to do for God before being cleansed in Christ? Asked another way, have you put *doing* before *being*?

To “ordain” in Exodus 29:9 translates literally as “to fill the hands of.” J.A. Motyer helps us understand, “Consecration is total preoccupation and engagement with something, to have one’s hands full.” In this sense, to what are you consecrated? What are you setting your life aside to do? What fills your time, ability, and attention? Is it God and His Kingdom or is it some lesser pursuit?

Reading the detailed accounts of the tabernacle can be wearisome. Around one third of the book of Exodus is taken up with describing the intricacies of this portable sanctuary. God intends to live with His people (Ex. 29:45-46; 40:34) and His presence shapes their life. As Michael Goheen and Craig Bartholomew point out, “Exodus charts the course of this nation from slavery to worship, and servants of the great King will want to know every detail of his life in their midst.” Read Colossians 1:13, how does this example (slavery->worship) reflect the reality of the Christian life? How is God with us now? What does His presence in your life change?

Describe the events in Exodus 32 in your own words. Write a 1-2 sentence summary. What does the making of idols look like today?

What does Moses long to see in Exodus 33:18 and why do you think he desires that? Consider Romans 3:23, John 5:44, and John 12:43. How does the pursuit of glory (honor, praise, *significance*) shape your life? In what ways have you sought out significance apart from God? What does Jesus offer us (John 17:22)?

Exodus 34 demonstrates the profound grace of God toward His people. How does He describe Himself to Moses as He “proclaimed the name of the LORD” in verses 6-7? What is Moses’ immediate response? Look at verse 14. How big of a priority is worship to you and your family? What are some steps you can take to become more worshipful? Identify the things that distract you from worship. Identify the things that press you to miss worshipping with God’s people on Sundays.

Leviticus 8 puts into practice the principles laid out in Exodus 29. God prescribed the priesthood of Aaron. He gave clear instructions regarding the tabernacle. He gave Israel the “how to” manual for their

worshiping life. In that light, what was the grievous sin of Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10? Who is honored more when we pursue worship “our way,” God or us? How has this self-centered view of worship infiltrated your own heart? What steps can you take to reorient yourself around God and His will in worship? Jesus says in John 4:23-24, “But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.”

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“Fear the LORD your God, worship him, and take your oaths in his name.” -**Deuteronomy 6:13**

How will you put the *worship* of God at the center of your life? How will worship shape you individually? Will you worship God as a *family*? Eliminate the things you can that prevent you from worshipping with your church family.